

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSH ZEPNICK
WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

April 19, 2016

Governor Scott Walker
Room 115 East
State Capitol

HAND DELIVERED

Dear Governor Walker:

As you consider the final bills of the legislative session, I respectfully request that you exercise your veto option for Senate Bill 533, relating to regulating the production and use of photo identification cards by local units of government.

This bill violates local control by prohibiting local levels of government from enacting their own photo ID program. During the past three legislative sessions, over 100 provisions have been introduced that undermine local control.

Local government is closer to the people and knows best as the saying goes. By this bill becoming law it would no longer recognize the Milwaukee ID program which helps vulnerable individuals with:

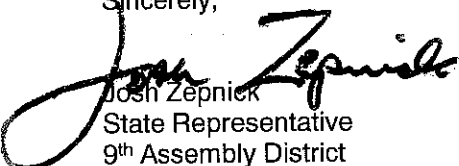
- Being able to identify themselves to police when stopped or when they need to report crimes, making everyone safer
- Being able to identify themselves to homeless shelters, healthcare providers, and other institutions.
- Being able to open a bank account and cash checks.
- Domestic violence survivors would be able to file papers in court to protect themselves and their children.
- Having access to local services they pay taxes to provide, like city recycling centers.
- Enter public schools to meet their children's teachers.
- Transgender people would have an ID that agrees with their identity.
- The ID cannot be used as identification for voting or to access social safety net programs.

I believe it is important to empower individual communities to find solutions that make sense for their area. The more the state legislature tries to define the role of local elected officials, the more they dilute the votes local community members take when they dutifully go to the polls to elect their town, village, city, county, and school board representatives. Vetoing this legislation would send a strong message that local control is still important.

I hope you share my belief that local governments should have options and the authority to make decisions for the people in their communities who have entrusted them to make critical decisions locally.

I respectfully ask for you to veto this bill in order to preserve the voice of our local elected officials. Thank you for your consideration of my request, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Josh Zepnick
State Representative
9th Assembly District